

1

**LAUNDRY ROLL HAMPER****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

U.S. Pat. No. D412,229 Laundry Hamper  
 U.S. Pat. No. D413,099 Hamper  
 U.S. Pat. No. 5,881,975 Hamper  
 U.S. Pat. No. 4,646,802 Removable-supported hamper bag and foldable support thereof

**STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT—Not Applicable****REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX—Not Applicable****BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to a hamper for storing and transporting clothes, specifically to such laundry hampers, bags, and baskets which are used for carrying or transporting soiled clothes from one location (e.g., upstairs bathroom) to another location in the house (e.g., the laundry room in the basement) or other laundry establishment. More particularly, this invention relates to an improved laundry hamper with features which allows the hamper assembly to expand and resemble a polygon-shaped ball.

Hampers in general, and laundry hampers in particular, are available in a great variety of types and designs. One type of hamper comprises a container, often constructed of wicker or plastic that forms a storage chamber for soiled clothing. Such hampers ordinarily have a top closure or cover that is attached to the container and serves to shut the container when it is not in use. This type of hamper is either too heavy or bulky to carry. Soiled clothing that have accumulated within the hamper must periodically be transferred to a basket or other transport means, which is then carried to the washing machine which is in another location of the house. An example of a clothes hamper of this type is illustrated in U.S. Pat. No. D412,229. A similar type hamper includes a handle and wheels to facilitate transport to the laundry room. However, this type still needs to be held or carried down the stairs. An example of a hamper of this type is illustrated in U.S. Pat. No. D413,099.

Another type of hamper consists of a fabric bag that is supported upon an external frame or stand. The external frame may consist of a base and four or more leg members of equal height to support a fabric bag such as shown in U.S. Pat. No. 5,881,975. Other hampers employ support rods that extend vertically from the corners of a rectangular base. A fabric bag is held in an open, upright position by folding the bag over the ends of the support rods. Other hampers employ a support frame arranged as a pair of scissors-type linkages with cross arms at the frame top to support a fabric laundry bag in an upright and open attitude. An example of such hamper arrangements is shown in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,646,802 and 5,507,577. The problem with these types of hampers is that they also have to be carried when full to the laundry room, and are either too bulky or heavy for most people.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the present invention to provide a lightweight and expandable hamper assembly that can be reshaped from a cylindrical to a polygon shape in order to solve a previously unrecognized problem of having to carry

2

the full hamper or having to transfer the soiled clothing to a laundry basket or bag for transporting to the laundry room in another part of the house.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING**

FIG. 1 Shows a perspective view of the laundry roll hamper in the upright position.

FIG. 2 Shows a perspective view of the laundry roll hamper in the expanded position.

**Reference Numerals in Drawings**

- 10 bag or covering
- 12 top cover
- 14 circular top frame
- 16 cover hinge
- 18 vertical leg members
- 20 frame hinges
- 22 leg hinges
- 24 circular base frame

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

In one preferred embodiment, a hamper bag or covering is supported on an upright position by an internal frame having a top, a base, and at least six vertically upstanding leg members. In this embodiment, the leg members are joined to the top and the base at equal distances and parallel to one to the other at right angles. The leg members are joined to the top and the base by hinges. Each leg member also contains hinges at points one third and two thirds of the length of each leg. The hamper bag or covering encloses the entire frame and is folded over the top of the circular top frame to create an opening and is held in place by a securing means such as Velcro. A top cover is hinged to the top frame and is secured shut by Velcro. The hamper expands outwards in the middle section and changes its shape from a cylindrical to a polygon-shaped ball, which can then be rolled.

Laundry hampers are commonly used and placed in bathrooms in the upper floors of the house where most bedrooms are located. When it comes time to doing the laundry, the hampers are either carried or the soiled clothes are transferred from the laundry hampers to laundry baskets, which are hand-carried down the stairs, across the living room, dining room, kitchen, or family room to the laundry room located on the first floor or down the basement. Carrying the load and navigating from the upstairs bathroom, down the stairs, to the laundry room is both physically challenging and risky. Existing laundry bags, hampers, and baskets do not address or resolve this issue.

It is the object of the present invention to:

- (a) Provide a laundry hamper which does not have to be carried from the upstairs bathrooms, down the stairs, across various rooms to the laundry room on the first floor or down the basement;
- (b) Provide a laundry hamper that does not have to be emptied and the clothes transferred to a laundry bag or basket for transporting to a laundry room;
- (c) Provide a cylindrical laundry hamper that expands and changes shape to resemble a hexagon or polygon-shaped ball so that it can be rolled with minimal effort instead of carried;

Further objects and advantages are to provide a laundry hamper that is lightweight, simple and economical to